



2004 Editor-of-the-Year Award

 MAGAZINE

Stuart Mahler

Florida

We the South Florida Community are very fortunate to have Stuart Mahler working for us. His life in wrestling began in the sixties where as a sophomore in high school and only weighing 88 pounds he was able to compete in a sport that is fair to children and men of all sizes. He has been in love with the sport ever since. Stuart has coached middle school and high school championship teams. He has helped to develop many little kids programs and has traveled all over the United States with these teams. He is currently a sports writer for *The South Dade News Leader* and has been a state editor of *Wrestling USA Magazine* for 17 years.

Wrestling in the state of Florida has really grown over the years. We have many outstanding individual wrestlers along with some great teams and coaches who deserve much recognition. If it was not for the tireless efforts of Stuart Mahler many of these athletes and coaches would go unrecognized. I truly believe that Stuart has single handedly helped the rest of the nation become aware of the outstanding wrestlers and coaches that Florida produces each year.

If an event is taking place in South Florida and it has something to do with wrestling, Stuart is there. He covers the Middle School Championship events in the spring, USA Wrestling events during the summer and "of course" the entire high school season. Nothing is too small to be covered, if an athlete has accomplished something Stuart gets that athlete



recognition. He also travels to cover even the largest events like the NCAA tournament, the World Championships and the Olympics. If a Florida wrestler is participating in a tournament he does everything he can to cover that event and get Florida wrestling and that young athlete more exposure.

Many wrestlers look forward to having their pictures taken by Stuart because they know they are going to be able to see themselves in the *Wrestling USA Magazine* or the local newspapers. Stuart also makes sure Florida gets coverage on the *Wrestling USA Magazine* website as well as the popular Florida Kids Wrestling web pages.

He is aware of all the aspects of the wrestling community. Mike Rio of Miami Southridge holds the national record for his 4 second fall in high school and it is because of Stuart he is recognized. He also makes sure a State Man of the Year is recognized from Florida each year. Stuart was also responsible for helping National Hall of Fame Coach Jim Husk from Miami Southridge become chosen to coach the *Wrestling USA Magazine*/Cliff Keen 7th Annual Dream Team. My life has also been touched by Stuart, he nominated me and I was honored with the 1996 National Assistant Coach of the Year Award and again last year the National Head Coach of the Year Award. These honors Jim and I hold dear to our hearts and if it wasn't for Stuart's loyal pursuit to the betterment of his peers, the wrestling community and South Florida none of this would have been possible.

Being a state editor is all about getting the athletes, coaches and the community you live in deserved recognition. It is a selfless job where the only pay you receive is the smiles you get back from the people you recognize. It is time we salute Stuart Mahler, a man who has always worked to get our greatest accomplishment recognized by the nation and honor him with the *Wrestling USA Magazine* National Editor of the Year Award.

Nominated by
 Victor Balmececa
 Jim Husk